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Letter dated 3 December 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the letter to you dated 21 November 2008 from Nikola Gruevski, President of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, in regard to the application filed with the International Court of Justice against Greece, concerning the protection of the implementation of article 11 of the Interim Accord of 13 September 1995 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 109, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Slobodan **Tašovski**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the dated 3 December 2008 from the Permanent Representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that on 17 November 2008 the Republic of Macedonia filed legal proceedings at the International Court of Justice against Greece. An application was filed to bring Greece into compliance with its legal obligations under article 11 of the Interim Accord of 13 September 1995, which sets forth the obligation of Greece not to object to the application by or the membership of the Republic of Macedonia in international, multilateral and regional organizations and institutions if this is in compliance with Security Council resolution 817 (1993) (see A/63/552-S/2008/718). At the Summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) held in Bucharest in April 2008, however, Greece objected to the extending of an invitation to my country to join NATO, in flagrant violation of its obligations under the Interim Accord.

The Republic of Macedonia has lodged the application with the International Court of Justice for the sole purpose of protecting the Interim Accord from further violations. It is our strong conviction that respect for and the consistent application of the Interim Accord are beneficial for both parties and that the letter and the spirit of what has been agreed upon must be honoured.

The Interim Accord is the only legal framework and the appropriate one for regulating the bilateral relations between the Republic of Macedonia and Greece in several areas of cooperation. Under the Interim Accord, Greece recognized the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Macedonia within its internationally recognized borders and diplomatic relations were established, by which the relations between the two neighbouring countries were basically normalized.

It is important that all the States respect international norms and principles, as well as their obligations under bilateral and international agreements. Therefore, we sincerely appreciate your understanding and support for our principled and legitimate decision to seek justice and compliance with the principles of international law.

In the context of the above, I would like to underline that the differences over the constitutional name of the Republic of Macedonia is not the subject matter of our application with the International Court of Justice. Let me assure you that the Republic of Macedonia remains strongly committed to the process of negotiations with Greece, as mediated by your Personal Envoy, Ambassador Matthew Nimetz. I strongly believe that full respect for the Interim Accord would be in the interest of both countries and would positively influence the development of friendly and good-neighbourly relations.

(*Signed*) Nikola **Gruevski**